

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-07
OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12 /078 W
-----162018Z 089831 /64

R 160945Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4970
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 1015

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, ET, EG, SO, US
SUBJ: US ARMS FOR SOMALIA

REFS: A) CAIRO 9977 (NOTAL); B) MOGADISCIO 0826

1. EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY'S CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR EILTS (REFTEL A) HAS FAMILIAR RING TO EMBOFFS, WHO HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN URGED BY THEIR EGYPTIAN, SUDANESE AND OTHER ARAB COLLEAGUES TO MOVE SWIFTLY ON ARMS SUPPLY TO HELP GSDR MOVE AWAY FROM SOVIETS. WE SYMPATHIZE WITH EGYPTIAN AND SUDANESE STRATEGIC CONCERNS, BUT PROBLEM AS WE SEE IT IS THAT GSDR IS NOT READY FOR AND WOULD REJECT UNTIMELY US INITIATIVE IN MILITARY FIELD. WE HAVE PRESIDENT SIAD'S WORD FOR THIS (REFTEL B). BY CONTRAST, WE HAVE MOVED SWIFTLY TO RESUME ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND HAVE HAD POSITIVE RESPONSE. NOR DO WE APPEAR BE ALONE IN MOVING AHEAD THOUGHTFULLY. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT SAUDIS MAY ALSO HAVE DECIDED TAKE STOCK OF SOMALI SITUATION BEFORE MAKING ANY MAJOR NEW COMMITMENTS HERE. AT ANY RATE, PROMISED VISIT OF SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD, SCHEDULED HAVE TAKEN PLACE SOME TIME AGO, HAS NOT YET MATERIALIZED.

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2. FOR CAIRO: AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL HAVE EMBASSY CAMU'S ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT EGYPTIAN POLICY IN HORN, PARTICULARLY FAHMY'S HINT THAT GOE MAY BE ENCOURAGING GSDR TO ESCALATE IRRIDENTIST ATTACKS AGAINST ETHIOPIA IN ORDER INCREASE PRESSURE ON MENGISTU REGIME. FAHMY'S STATEMENT THAT GOE SUPPLYING SMALL ARMS TO GSDR IS SUGGESTIVE BUT WE DO NOT WISH READ TOO

MUCH INTO IT. OUR EGYPTIAN COLLEAGUES ARE PLAYING DOWN RECENT EGYPTIAN MILITARY FLIGHTS TO MOGADISCIO. ONE COLLEAGUE CLAIMS DELIVERIES CONSISTED OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR SOMALI MILITARY BUT NO ARMS. (SUGGEST CAIRO MAY WISH REPEAT REFTEL (A) TO JIDDA AND NAIROBI.)

3. FOR DEPT: EMBASSY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION PARA THREE REFTEL (A) CONCERNING ARMS SUPPLY CONSORTION. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW FAR, IF AT ALL, USG IS COMMITTED TO IDEA AND WHETHER IT IS NOW BEING OFFICIALLY DISCUSSED WITH OTHER POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS.

4. FOR JIDDA: CONSIDERABLE INTEREST HAS BEEN BUILT UP ABOUT PROMISED FAHD VISIT AND HIS FAILURE APPEAR THUS FAR HAS RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT SAUDI INTENTIONS TOWARD GSDR. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY JIDDA CAN FURNISH ABOUT POSTPONEMENT, AS WELL AS PORT ON FAHD'S REACTIONS TO HIS RECENT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AS THEY CONCERN SOMALIA. WE BELIEVE FAHD VISIT TO MOGADISCIO COULD BE VERY IMPORTANT AT THIS JUNCTURE. HE HAS POLITICAL STATURE AND FINANCIAL INDUCEMENTS NECESSARY PUT SOME DIRECT QUESTIONS TO PRESIDENT SIAD ABOUT GSDR'S INTENTIONS TOWARD ETHIOPIA, SOVIETS, ETC., AS WELL AS REMINDING SIAD ABOUT DANGERS PROVOKING WAR IN HORN OF AFRICA. LOUGHRAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOGADI01015
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770215-0713
Format: TEL
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770650/aaaabsar.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e9ff067c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAIRO 9977, 77 MOGADISCIO 826
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2130495
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US ARMS FOR SOMALIA
TAGS: PINS, MASS, ET, EG, SO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e9ff067c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009